

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

USIA-06 /033 W

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R 201740Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2101

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USDOC

USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5287

STATE EUR/CE PLEASE PASS TO AMBASSADOR COOPER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, BEXP, EEWT, SCHUL, GE, US

SUBJECT: US EXHIBIT AT SPRING 1976 LEIPZIG FAIR

REF: STATE 040379-C, BERLIN 5267-C, BERLIN 5270-C, 75-A-80.

BEGIN SUMMARY: GDR CONTACT REPORTS RECENT DECISION AT MEETING OF
SOCIALIST COUNTRY IDEOLOGICAL LEADERS THAT US BICENTENNIAL IS NOT TO
BE
OBSERVED IN ANY WAY IN THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. HIS REPORT REPRESENTS
A NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THE SITUATION REPORTED IN THE REFTELS. END SUMMA
RY:

1. PROFESSOR WALLACE MORGAN, OF THE HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY
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HISTORY FACULTY, WHO LAST FALL GAVE P AND C OFFICER A COPY OF A

DRAFT POLICY PAPER ON THE US BICENTENNIAL AND PROMISED TO INFORM HIM IF THERE WAS "FEEDBACK" FROM THE SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY (SED) LEADERSHIP ON THE DRAFT, CALLED LAST TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 17) TO INVITE THE EMBASSY OFFICER TO LUNCH. IT WAS AGREED TO MEET ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 20) AT ERMELER HAUS.

2. EARLY IN THE CONVERSATION, PROFESSOR MORGAN SAID THAT THE REASON HE

HAD INVITED THE P AND C OFFICER TO LUNCH WAS TO INFORM HIM THAT A DECISION HAD COME DOWN FROM THE PARTY LEADERSHIP THAT NOTHING WOULD BE DONE IN OBSERVATION OF THE BICENTENNIAL. MOREOVER, HE STATED, THE DECISION WAS BROUGHT BACK FROM A RECENT MEETING OF SOCIALIST IDEOLOGICAL LEADERS BY SED POLITBURO IDEOLOGIST, KURT HAGER (POSSIBLY WARSAW MEETING OF IDEOLOGICAL SECRETARIES IN JANUARY). THUS, THE DECISION WAS

NOT A UNILATERAL GDR DECISION, BUT RATHER ONE TAKEN BY THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. MORGAN EXPRESSED GREAT CHAGRIN AT THE DECISION, STATING THAT HE BELIEVED IT WAS A WRONG ONE, AND ALSO BECAUSE HE HAD SPENT SO MUCH TIME PERSONALLY ON PARTICIPATING IN DRAFTING OF THE BICENTENNIAL POLICY PAPER AND IN PLANNING BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES ON THE PART OF THE

HISTORY FACULTY. HE SAID THAT HE WANTED TO INFORM THE P AND C OFFICER BECAUSE HE HAD PROMISED TO DO SO IF THERE WAS A RESPONSE TO THE POLICY

PAPER AND BECAUSE HE WAS AWARE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF OTHER BICENTENNIAL PROJECTS INCLUDING A COOPERATIVE HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT ON THE JEFFERSON-VON HUMBOLDT CORRESPONDENCE, A U.S. FILM WEEK IN THE GDR AND THE BICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT AT THE LEIPZIG FAIR.

3. THE P AND C OFFICER THEN TOLD PROFESSOR MORGAN ABOUT THE RECENT GDR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE OBJECTION TO THE BICENTENNIAL THEME OF THE PLANNED EXHIBIT IN THE NATIONAL PAVILION AT THE UPCOMING LEIPZIG SPRING FAIR. MORGAN'S RESPONSE WAS THAT THIS WAS SURELY ANOTHER RESULT OF THE GENERAL SOCIALIST COUNTRY BAN ON BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES RESULTING FROM THE RECENT IDEOLOGICAL MEETING. THE P AND C OFFICER TRIED TO ESTABLISH THE EXACT DATE AND PLACE OF THE ALLEGED MEETING, AS WELL AS WHETHER POLAD AND ROMANIA WERE INVOLVED. THE IMPRESSION GAINED WAS THAT THE MEETING WAS RECENT AND THAT AT CONFIDENTIAL

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LEAST POLAD, FOR WHICH IT WAS KNOWN THAT BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES ARE PLANNED, WAS INVOLVED.

4. IN RESPONSE TO MORGAN'S INQUIRY AS TO WHETHER THIS WOULD MEAN THAT THE U.S. WOULD CONTINUE TO EXHIBIT IN LEIPZIG, THE P AND C OFFICER STATED THAT IT WAS HIS OPINION THAT THE U.S. COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT ALTER THE CONTENT OF ITS NATIONAL PAVILION EXHIBIT, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE GDR AUTHORITIES HAD KNOWN FROM THE BEGINNING

THAT IT WOULD INVOLVE THE BICENTENNIAL THEME AND HAD BEEN KEPT INFORMED ABOUT ITS CONTENT AS THE EXHIBIT WAS CONSTRUCTED. (P AND C OFFICER HAD NOT SEEN GUIDANCE REFTEL AT THIS POINT.) MORGAN COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF A SITUATION IN WHICH A GENERAL SOCIALIST COUNTRY DECISION COULD AFFECT THE GDR MORE ADVERSELY THAN OTHER SOCIST COUNTRIES WHICH HAD ALREADY ESTABLISHED TRADE PATTERNS WITH THE U.S.

5. COMMENT: PROFESSOR MORGAN CALLED TO ARRANGE THE LUNCH APPOINTMENT THE SAME DAY THAT THE EMBASSY ECON/COMMERCIAL OFFICER WAS CALLED INTO THE FOREIGN TRADE SECRETARIAT TO BE TOLD DIRECTOR GENERAL KIRSTEN'S OBJECTIONS TO THE BICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT. THE SIMULTANEOUS TIMING COULD WELL BE DUE TO THE RECENT DECISION BROUGHT BACK BY HAGER AND REPORTED BY PROFESSOR MORGAN. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT MORGAN IS BEING USED BY GDR AUTHORITIES TO ASSESS US REACTION TO THE BAN ON THE BICENTENNIAL THEME. HOWEVER, HIS CALL COULD SEEM TO HAVE COME EARLY FOR THAT. AT ANY RATE, MORGAN TOOK AWAY FROM THE MEETING A STRONG IMPRESSION THAT THE US DID NOT INTEND TO ALTER THE BICENTENNIAL THEME OF ITS PLANNED EXHIBIT. HOWEVER, IF MORGAN'S REPORT IS TRUE, THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE GDR WILL STICK BY ITS POSITION REPORTED REFTELS IS GREATER.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO ADVISE IF BICENTENNIAL EVENTS IN OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED RECENTLY OF IF THEY ARE STILL FIRMLY SCHEDULED.GROVE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE FAIRS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BERLIN05287
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760064-0624
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760232/aaaabbby.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <27 JUL 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US EXHIBIT AT SPRING 1976 LEIPZIG FAIR
TAGS: PFOR, BEXP, EEWT, SCUL, GC, US
To: STATE BELGRADE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006